

## **MAKING VIDEOS OF AVP WORKSHOPS NOTES**

There has been some recent discussion about videos of AVP workshops or gatherings being distributed in the public arena including on U-Tube. The following is a summary of an Australian experience with an AVP video. The issues of confidentiality and informed consent of participants and facilitators are very important.

In 2005 as part of a Australian program of AVP Interfaith workshops a documentary video was made of the program. The program was organised by the Forum for Australian Islamic Relations (FAIR) in partnership with AVP(NSW) and funded by a \$45,000 grant from the Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). This year long program covered 20 AVP Interfaith workshops throughout Australia and the production of a video of the program.

The video included three types of material – interviews with facilitators and participants, parts of several workshops and close ups of posters.

Prior to the videoing we received advice from the AVP facilitators who had organised the making of Another Way, the documentary of the AVP-Queensland prison program. This is a commercial video that was screened on TV.

It was decided that consent must be given to by all the stakeholders in the video process.

1. The video project was discussed and scoped with the FAIR director, film maker and the Interfaith program steering committee.
2. The AVP(NSW) Council to which workshops would be videoed, the process of consultation, the conditions of the videoing and the in principle wording of the release form. Everyone who appears in a non-private film or video in Australia needs to sign a release form prior to being videoed to agreeing to being videoed.
3. The facilitators volunteered to be part of the team for the workshop selected to be videoed and to be responsible for the 'on the spot' decision making for the videoing process. They decided on the learning activities/exercises that were appropriate to be videoed in consultation with the FAIR film-maker, and drafted and then finalised the wording of the release forms after consultation with the participants.
4. The participants volunteered to attend the workshop knowing that part of the workshop would be videoed. They were then consulted in a "U Choose" consensus decision making learning activity covering the

conditions of the videoing, editing and wording of the release form.  
The group changed the conditions and release form wording.

5. AVP representatives of the facilitating team reviewed the first cut of video and agreed to the editing.
6. The next cut of the video was shown to all the participants of the next AVP-Australia National Gathering.

The agreed conditions were –

- That there would be no taping of personal sharing, discussions or debriefing
- That only the specific learning activities would be videoed
- That the people who did not wish to be shown on the video would not be videoed or would be edited out from the video
- That representatives of the workshop facilitation team would be involved in the editing process and have a right of veto over the appearance of participants in the video
- That the video would not be used for any commercial purpose and not be publically broadcast. The video could only be used for AVP and training purposes, be sent to DIMIA as part of the project report and be sent to educational repository libraries
- That both FAIR and AVP(NSW) would jointly have copyright for future release conditions
- That copies of the release forms would be kept by both the film maker Whirling Dervishes and AVP(NSW).

## AUDIO RECORDINGS & PHOTOS

In AVP(NSW) no audio recordings or photos are taken in AVP activities without agreement of all those present. Those present must also agree to the range of possible uses for the recordings or photos.

Some may be taken for private use and others for use in AVP private forums like the private AVP wikis. If any were taken for commercial or public display everyone involved must fill give consent and sign an agreed release form with explicit consent for their commercial or public release. Copies of these forms need to be held by AVP(NSW).

## CAUTION

Videoing, recording or photographing of AVP workshops is likely to change the dynamics of the group and to break down the sense of community safety, especially for sensitive or vulnerable participants or facilitators. This has also been our experience, especially when videoing.

AVP(NSW) has not allowed any videoing, recording or photographing of prison or youth workshops.

Confidentiality is a fundamental part of the AVP workshop process, a core safety issue, group agreement or ground rule.